

their masculine habits of dress and tobacco-smoking.

These were the days of bull and bear baits, cocking, and boxing, of Fleet and Mint marriage by disgraced clergymen, of imprisonment for debt without hope, and sometimes without redemption of the body after death, of robbery, and of judicial wholesale murder.

What wonderful changes have taken place within the memory of man! The middling classes are now distinguished for their sobriety, industry, and intelligence; they form a current rolling onwards and strengthening as it proceeds, checking pride, ambition, and arbitrary power on the one hand, bigotry, intolerance, and the countless vices arising from ignorance on the other. We find them intent on intellectual pleasures and intellectual acquirements; and when the present furor for the poisonous trash of literature shall have abated, when thieves and cut-throats shall no longer be exalted as demi-gods, and pointed out as objects of ambition; the fruits of their intelligence will, of necessity, follow in the blessing of universal peace and continually increasing happiness. Even the lower classes have prodigiously improved; it is true that drunkenness, and its attendant vices, is still prevalent and most particularly exemplified on those days, when the working classes are let loose from labour, but it is satisfactory to see the thousands and tens of thousands, banding themselves together to resist this insidious enemy, or seeking, through the blessings of steam, the higher intellectual pleasures, far away from the site of their daily toil, and still surrounded by their families and friends. Woe to the bigot who would stand between them and rational enjoyments! Who would coop them up by Acts of Parliament, oppress them by exaction, and with true pharisaical spirit devour their substance, and for a pretence make long prayers.

The love of the fine arts and of the more abstruse branches of science, including mechanics, chemistry, and mathematics, is continually increasing with the increase of our population; and even many of the common problems of metaphysics are shrewdly commented on with a strength of thought and richness of conception, not unworthy the learned men of olden times. The days of sterling tragedy and comedy have, it is true, gone by; for men are now more prone to look to the realities of life; and their once concentrated taste for theatricals has of necessity given way to the numerous means and opportunities of more extended intellectual and social enjoyment.

Still we cannot say that in the vast augmentation of buildings, now environing London, that a corresponding improvement has taken place in architecture. With the exception of some few streets and squares, some few churches and public edifices, to be noticed hereafter, we have most decidedly retrograded at the West end of the town since 1800. The new squares and streets will not compete with those built within the thirty years previous, either in architectural beauty or family convenience. The churches, even to the present day, are specimens of what is to be expected, and a sad exhibition of the effects of concealed competition, favouritism, and building by tender; all defects of execution being hidden for a time beneath the mask of plaster; and even where there is a display of taste, stability is wanting, in order to ensure future fame to the architect. The streets present either a dull uniformity, or, as is exhibited by Regent and Oxford-streets, a total absence of all regularity and design. The architect has, in fact, seldom power to follow out the dictates of his taste, the interest or obstinacy of individuals governing his movements. This is speaking critically; for the common observer sees much to admire, although the architect has little before him worthy imitation. The older churches of St. George's, Hanover-square, and St. Martin's, admit of no competition by any modern one in that portion of London, of which I am speaking; and yet architects of those days had no such excitement to tax their genius: for most of the beautiful works even of Sir Christopher Wren, were then hidden by huge unsightly masses of wood or brick. St. George's church was built in 1725; the ground, on which it stands, being the gift of the Rt. Hon. General W. Stuart, one of the churchwardens of the parish.

The large stone house, on the south side of Berkeley-square, was built by the Earl of Bute, circa 1765, and sold incomplete to the Earl of Shelburne, afterwards Marquis of Lansdowne, for 22,000*l.*; the square is said to contain three acres of ground. Grosvenor-square owes its origin to Sir Richard Grosvenor, Bart., who in 1695 named all the streets between New Bond-streets and Hyde Park. The centre house on the east side was raffled for in 1739, and won by two persons named Hunt and Braithwaite, who subsequently sold it to the Duke of Norfolk for 7,000*l.* The Weekly Journal of June 1, 1717, observes—The new buildings between Bond-street and Marylebone go on with all possible diligence; and the houses even let and sell before they are built. In 1800 Bond-street, as a fashionable street, was without rivalry, and almost impassable for vehicles in fine weather. May-fair was held annually for fourteen days; in 1727 it was marked out to be built upon.

In the Evening Post, March 16, 1715-16, we read—"On Wednesday last four gentlemen were robbed and stripped in the fields between London and Mary-le-bon." In the year 1797 the maps of London represent King-street near Golden-square as perfect to Oxford-street; between which and Berwick-street were fields. In 1742, the little church of St. Mary was detached from London, with two zigzag ways leading to it; one near Vere-street, which was the then western boundary of the new buildings, and the second from Tottenham-court-road, somewhere about Charles-street. Rows of houses, with their backs to the fields, extended from St. Giles's to Oxford-market; a small cluster on the west side, and Spring-water House, constituting the whole of Tottenham-court-road. I have already noticed the extension of this quarter of the town in 1800.

Paddington parish extended over 1,197 acres, 3 roads, and 30 perches; of which 84 were arable or garden-ground, the remainder pastures. The manor of Paddington was granted to Westminster Abbey by king Edgar; and when the see of Westminster was abolished, it was given to Ridley, Bishop of London and his successors. In 1661 it was sold by the Parliamentary commissioners to Thomas Browne, Esq.; in 1741 it was purchased by Sir John Frederick, Bart.; and in 1800 was vested in Sir John Mordaunt, Bart. and Robert Thistlethwaite, Esq., in right of their wives.

The chief buildings at this period were Paddington-house, then a handsome brick edifice on the east of the green, built by Mr. Dennis Chiroe, jeweller to Queen Anne, and then occupied by John Symmons, Esq.; Westbourne-place, granted by Henry VIII. in 1540 to Robert White, and some years afterwards the property of Isaac Ware, the architect (editor of Palladio's works and other professional productions), who erected the mansion with materials brought from Lord Chesterfield's house in May-fair; this was afterwards sold to Sir William York, Bart., Chief Justice of the Common Pleas in Ireland; and in 1800 was the property of Mrs. Coulson; Little Shaftesbury-house, the seat of Ambrose Godfrey, Esq.; the Queen's Lying-in Hospital, at Bayswater, where Mrs. Kennedy, the celebrated singer, closed her days in 1793, at the apartments of her husband, who was physician to the hospital; the church, rebuilt 1791 at an expense of 6,000*l.*; the stipend was formerly so small that it was difficult to find a person who would supply the cure; in 1626 it was only 10*l.*; it was afterwards 28*l.* Bishop Sheldon in granting the lease of the manor to his nephews in 1661 raised it to 80*l.*, at which rate it continued some time after the beginning of the present century. The number of houses was about 340, the greater portion of which, disposed a little to the north of Tybourn turnpike, were small wooden cottages, inhabited principally by journeymen artificers.

A celebrated eccentric statuary named John Bushnell was buried at Paddington in 1701; among other whims he undertook to demonstrate the possibility of the Trojan Horse, and began to make one upon the same principles, of wood covered with stucco; the head was capable of holding twelve men, the eyes were to serve as windows. Before it was half completed a storm of wind overset and destroyed the unwieldy machine. Bushnell was much admired as an artist.

PANCRAS.—This place took its name from

the saint, to whom the church is dedicated. It was called St. Pancras in the Doomsday book. Its extent in 1800 was 2,700 acres, being rated at 1,400*l.* per annum land tax. Kentish Town was formerly written Kentesstowne, being the property of Reginald de Kentewode; from whom also Caen-wood or Ken-wood, Earl Mansfield's seat, derives its name.

The old church is of Gothic architecture, built of stones and flints, and supposed to have been built in the 14th century. "Pancras Church," says Norden, "standeth all alone, as utterly forsaken, old, and weather-beaten, which, for the antiquity thereof, it is thought not to yield to Paul's in London. About the church have been many buildings now decayed, leaving poor Pancras without company or comfort, yet it is now and then visited with Kentishtowne and Highgate, which are members thereof; but they seldom come there, for they have chapels of ease within themselves; but when there is a corpse to be interred they are forced to leave the same within this forsaken church or churchyard, where it resteth as secure against the day of resurrection, as if it lay in stately Paul's." It was long noted as the burial place of such Roman Catholics as die in London and its vicinity, and many are buried there at the present day. It was plastered and repaired about 25 years ago, and now bids fair to outlast many of our modern churches. The Small-pox Hospital was built in 1675; the Foundling-house was instituted 1739; the Veterinary College in 1791.

Hampstead, formerly Hamstead, the ancient way of spelling *homestead*, contained in 1800 2,169 acres of land, of which 273 were waste; the land-tax was 855*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*, which was at the rate of 10*d.* in the pound rack-rent. Its fine, healthy, and commanding situation for a panoramic view of London and the surrounding country have always drawn together a number of occasional visitants, for whose accommodation several places of public amusement had been established. The Spaniard and the Flask taverns, and a tea-drinking house, called New Georgia, where the company were diverted with various water-works, were the most remarkable places. The latter is now inclosed with Lord Mansfield's premises. The Hampstead Wells were once in great request by rank and fashion. The present church was consecrated in 1747. When Hampstead was granted to Westminster Abbey by King Ethelred in 986, it contained only five cottages.

Kensington, in Doomsday book called *Chenisiton*, in other ancient records *Kenesitone* and *Kensintune*, was a village lying on the Great Western road, about 1½ miles from Hyde Park Corner, embracing 1,910 acres of land, about 500 of which were devoted to raising garden produce, and 100 acres to horticulture.

Holland-house, one of the most ancient mansions in this parish, is the manor-house of Abbot's Kensington, and takes its name from Henry Rich, Earl of Holland. It was built by his father-in-law, Sir Walter Cope, in 1607, and affords a very good specimen of the architecture of that period. The stone piers at the entrance of the court (over which are the arms of Rich, quartering Bouldry, and impaling Cope) were designed by Inigo Jones, and executed by Nicholas Stone. The internal decorations were by Francis Cleyne. The Earl of Holland was a conspicuous character during the whole of the reign of Charles the First; he was made a prisoner in his own house, and was finally beheaded by the Parliamentarians in 1649. General Lambert fixed his headquarters at Holland-house. On its restoration to the contest, and when the theatres were shut up by the Puritans, plays were very often acted there, collections being made for the actors. The celebrated Addison became possessed of it in 1716, by his intermarriage with Charlotte, Countess Dowager of Warwick and Holland.

Campden-house, in 1800; the property of Stephen Pitt, Esq., and occupied by Mrs. Denham, another celebrated house, was built by Sir Baptist Hickes in 1612, a zealous royalist and great sufferer during the civil war. Charles the Second supped with him there about a fortnight after the restoration. Montagu Bertie, the brave and loyal Earl of Lindsey, immortalized by his filial piety, died at this house. In 1691 it was hired of the Noel family by Queen Anne, then Princess of